

Growth

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THE SENTINEL EDITORIALS

Some Changes Made

One frequently hears a remark that the Santa Cruz area is about to undergo some tremendous changes—the development of the University of California campus on the Cowell site, the Twin Lakes small craft harbor, the redevelopment project, etc.

And while it is certainly true that Santa Cruz is headed for new horizons, it is also true that there have been some changes made.

Perhaps, we are so close to them that we haven't paid attention to the evolution, but when you look back on the past few years, the evidence is extraordinary.

What has happened?

If we go back as far as the time of the Christmas floods of 1955, here are a few of the developments which have taken place:

In public works, the San Lorenzo river flood control project, designed by the corps of engineers was completed to provide flood protection for Santa Cruz at a cost of about \$6.5 million.

Work is being completed on a new high school, Soquel high school, in the Santa Cruz high school district to provide classrooms and facilities for about 1200 students, beginning next fall.

At the same time, workmen are busy on the Cabrillo college campus, developing the county's first junior college campus at a cost of about \$6 million and capable of handling about 3000 students. The campus is also scheduled to open this fall although the college has been operating from temporary facilities at Watsonville high school.

Last year, the city of Santa Cruz completed a \$5.5 million water improvement project, including the construction of Newell Creek dam and reservoir, transmission lines and a million dollar water treatment plant.

Bids were recently opened for the \$3.4 million Twin Lakes small craft harbor project which will be financed jointly by the corps of army engineers and the Santa Cruz port district along with a state loan from the small craft harbor commission.

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The business district by-pass to Mission street.

The Los Gatos-Santa Cruz expressway from the Ocean street interchange

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The business district by-pass to Mission street.

The Los Gatos-Santa Cruz expressway from the Ocean street interchange to Granite Creek road in Scotts Valley.

The Morrissey by-pass from the Ocean street interchange to Morrissey boulevard, linking the Watsonville freeway to the business district by-pass and the Los Gatos expressway.

The 41st avenue interchange, eliminating a dangerous intersection.

The Oceanshore highway has been improved from the West city limits to Davenport.

Work will start in the near future on two additional interchanges on the Watsonville freeway at Park drive and at the entrance to Seacliff state park.

The city elementary school district constructed Westlake school to house children in the High street area.

In addition, the Live Oak school district built the new Del Mar elementary school; the Aptos school district built the new Rio del Mar school and additions have been made to numerous other elementary schools.

These expenditures total more than \$30 million and do not include the development of sanitation facilities in the Mid County area.

On the industrial front in this period, we have created more than 1000 additional jobs by the development of such industries as Lockheed (in 1957), Sylvania (in 1958) and the expansion of Stewart Engineering company as well as growth in existing industries and smaller firms.

During the same period—the six years from 1956 to 1961—building permits have been issued for more than \$116 million in new construction throughout the county, but principally in the Santa Cruz area.

Included in this new building, were more than 6000 housing units. Last year's residential development alone topped the 1500 mark.

In the same period, there are a few other statistics to indicate that there have been some changes made:

For example, school enrollment has jumped from 13,000 to 19,000 in the county.

Motor vehicle registration has climbed nearly 15,000 vehicles to a new high of 57,165.

Taxable retail sales have increased about \$30,000,000.

So, while the future holds an even brighter picture if we can take full advantage of the opportunities, we also can look back on some years of extraordinary progress. Truly, there have been some changes made.